

CHAPTER 11

IOWA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Overview

The Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program (NGEAP) provides funds to members of Iowa National Guard units to cover the cost of attending Iowa colleges and universities.

Date Established: 1996

Funding:

| IOWA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATIONAL ASSTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING HISTORY | | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| ACADEMIC YEAR | STATE APPROPRIATION | SSIG/LEAP ¹ FUNDS | TOTAL FUNDING |
| 1997-98 | \$625,000 | \$0 | \$625,000 |
| 1998-99 | \$833,900 | \$0 | \$833,900 |
| 1999-00 | \$833,900 | \$0 | \$833,900 |
| 2000-01 | \$1,250,000 | \$0 | \$1,250,000 |
| 2001-02 | \$1,175,000 | \$0 | \$1,175,000 |
| 2002-03 | \$1,175,000 | \$0 | \$1,175,000 |
| *2003-04 | \$1,175,000 | \$0 | \$1,175,000 |
| **2004-05 | \$3,550,000 | \$0 | \$3,550,000 |
| 2005-06 | \$3,725,000 | \$0 | \$3,725,000 |
| 2006-07 | \$3,725,000 | \$0 | \$3,725,000 |
| 2007-08 | \$3,800,000 | \$0 | \$3,800,000 |
| ***2008-09 | \$3,767,385 | \$0 | \$3,742,629 |
| ****2009-10 | \$3,841,903 | \$0 | \$3,841,903 |
| 2010-11 | \$3,186,233 | \$0 | \$3,186,233 |
| *****2011-12 | \$4,486,233 | \$0 | \$4,486,233 |
| 2012-13 | \$4,800,233 | \$0 | \$4,800,233 |
| 2013-14 | \$5,100,233 | \$0 | \$5,100,233 |
| 2014-15 | \$5,100,233 | \$0 | \$5,100,233 |
| 2015-16 | \$5,100,233 | \$0 | \$5,100,233 |
| 2016-17 | \$2,100,000 | \$0 | \$2,100,000 |

⁽¹⁾State Student Incentive Grant Program name changed to Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program in 1999.

*Reduced mid-year to \$1,145,625; enhanced with carryover funds of \$81,032; annual total available \$1,226,657.

**Increased mid-year by \$650,000 from \$2,900,000 to \$3,550,000

***Reduced by 1.5% due to mid-year across the board cut.

****Reduced by 10% due to across the board cut on 10/8/09. Backfill appropriation added \$241,120 on 10/28/09. Final appropriation listed.

*****Mid-year appropriation increase of \$1.3 million. Final appropriation listed.

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. College and University

The Code of Iowa limits eligibility to Iowa colleges and universities accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities (HLC). HLC candidates are not eligible. Students attending the colleges and universities listed on the following page are eligible to receive Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance awards.

| Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program | | |
|---|--|--|
| <u>Regent Institutions</u> | | |
| Iowa State University | | Ames |
| University of Iowa | | Iowa City |
| University of Northern Iowa | | Cedar Falls |
| <u>Private Colleges and Universities</u> | | |
| Allen College | | Waterloo |
| Briar Cliff College | | Sioux City |
| Buena Vista University | | Storm Lake |
| Central College | | Pella |
| Clarke University | | Dubuque |
| Coe College | | Cedar Rapids |
| Cornell College | | Mount Vernon |
| Dordt College | | Sioux Center |
| Drake University | | Des Moines |
| Emmaus Bible College | | Dubuque |
| Faith Baptist Bible College | | Ankeny |
| Graceland University | | Lamoni |
| Grand View University | | Des Moines |
| Grinnell College | | Grinnell |
| Iowa Wesleyan College | | Mt. Pleasant |
| Loras College | | Dubuque |
| Luther College | | Decorah |
| Maharishi University of Management | | Fairfield |
| Mercy College of Health Sciences | | Des Moines |
| Morningside College | | Sioux City |
| Mount Mercy University | | Cedar Rapids |
| Northwestern College | | Orange City |
| St. Ambrose University | | Davenport |
| St. Luke's College | | Sioux City |
| Simpson College | | Indianola |
| University of Dubuque | | Dubuque |
| Upper Iowa University | | Fayette |
| Wartburg College | | Waverly |
| William Penn University | | Oskaloosa |
| <u>Proprietary Colleges</u> | | |
| Kaplan University | | Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Des Moines, Mason City |
| Waldorf University | | Forest City |
| <u>Community Colleges</u> | | |
| Des Moines Area Community College | | Des Moines |
| Eastern Iowa Community College | | Clinton, Muscatine, Bettendorf |
| Hawkeye Community College | | Waterloo |
| Indian Hills Community College | | Centerville, Ottumwa |
| Iowa Central Community College | | Fort Dodge |
| Iowa Lakes Community College | | Estherville |
| Iowa Valley Community College | | Ellsworth, Marshalltown |
| Iowa Western Community College | | Council Bluffs |
| Kirkwood Community College | | Cedar Rapids |
| North Iowa Area Community College | | Mason City |
| Northeast Iowa Community College | | Calmar, Peosta |
| Northwest Iowa Community College | | Sheldon |
| Southeastern Community College | | Burlington |
| Southwestern Community College | | Creston |
| Western Iowa Tech Community College | | Sioux City |

2. Student

Soldiers or Airmen must meet the following prerequisites:

- Be an active member of the Iowa Army or Air National Guard.
- Be a resident of the state of Iowa (residency is determined by the Adjutant General).
- Have satisfactorily completed initial entry training through one of the following:
 - Advanced Individual Training (AIT) or Tech School.
 - Completed One Station Unit Training (OSUT).
 - Enlisted under the Iowa National Guard Officer Candidate School (OCS) option (eligible upon enlistment).
- Be attending an Iowa college or university accredited by Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).
- Have NOT met the academic requirements for a baccalaureate degree.
- Have not met the academic requirements for a Baccalaureate degree or received NGEAP for more than 120 semester hours, or the equivalent.
- AGRs and dual status technicians may apply for NGEAP but there is no guarantee that funding will be approved. Approved traditional (M-Day) soldiers and airmen will be paid first, AGRs and dual status technicians may receive awards if funds are available.

To remain eligible for NGEAP Soldiers or Airmen must meet the following requirements:

- Maintain satisfactory performance of duty upon return from initial active duty training, including attending a minimum of ninety percent of scheduled drill dates. If a commander determines an airman or soldier in their command is not performing satisfactorily, he/she may request through command channels to have that service member's NGEAP eligibility rescinded. Final determination will be made by The Adjutant General (TAG).
- Soldiers may not have the following suspension of favorable actions; adverse action, Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) failure, non-compliance with Army weight control program, drug abuse and alcohol abuse.
- Soldiers must have a passing APFT in the last year and passing height/weight in the last six months.
- Airmen must take and pass their last Air Force Physical Fitness Test (AFPFT).
- Service Members granted a physical profile after failing APFT or ADPFT are not eligible for NGEAP.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution for which benefits are utilized or applied. The standards each institution must publish are outlined in CFR § 668.34.
- Members of the Iowa National Guard who are awarded NGEAP funds and then become ineligible or are discharged from the Iowa National Guard during the semester or term of their award may have their awards recouped.

B. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for the 2016-17 academic year should be submitted on or before July 1, 2016, through the Iowa Financial Aid Application. Spring-only applications should be submitted on or before December 1, 2016. Applicants are not required to complete Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSAs).

C. SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

The Adjutant General of Iowa selects eligible Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program recipients. These students are placed on the NGEAP Roster, and college and university officials verify their enrollment. Students may not be awarded under this program until their names appear on the NGEAP Roster.

To view the current NGEAP roster of eligible soldiers:

- From your internet browser, go to: <https://apps.iowacollegeaid.gov/ngsap/login.asp>
- Enter your username and password (the same username and password you use on the Scholarship and Grant Reporting System). Choose the academic year you wish to view. Then click "Login".
- You should see a list of approved Soldiers and Airmen at your college or university. Note: the Adjutant General determines residency qualifications for the NGEAP. If a student is listed on your approved NGEAP roster, the Iowa National Guard has determined that student meets the residency qualifications set forth by the Adjutant General. College/university administrators do not need to determine residency for NGEAP.
- You also will see a search tool at the top of the roster which may be used to search for any student by Social Security Number. If a Soldier or Airmen did not list your college on his/her NGEAP application, that Soldier or Airmen will not show up on your college roster. The SSN Search function allows you to check the eligibility of a Soldier or Airmen that is attending your college but didn't list your college on the NGEAP application.
- It is also important to verify the semesters that an applicant is eligible to receive NGEAP funds. College or university officials have the ability to export data on all NGEAP soldiers listed on their roster. This can be helpful in determining which semester (both fall and spring, or spring only) a soldier may be eligible to receive funding, as certified by the Iowa National Guard. If fall data is blank, it is likely that the soldier did not meet the fall NGEAP application deadline, and is ineligible for a fall award.
- College or university officials can view the total number of aggregate NGEAP credit hours the certified applicant has received prior to the 2016-17 academic year. No certified NGEAP applicants can be awarded more than 120 semester hours, or the equivalent.
- College administrators can also check individual certified applicants on their roster of certified NGEAP applicants. First, click on the applicant's name (see below).



national guard assistance program

ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016

User 007121

This form is used to view information about soldiers applying for the National Guard Educational Assistance Program.

| CERTIFIED BY NGEAP ADMIN | | SSN Search: | <input type="text"/> | <input type="button" value="Search"/> | <input type="button" value="EXPORT"/> | <input type="button" value="LOGOFF"/> |
|--------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Certification Date | Name | SSN | Branch | Credit Hours (as of 14-15) | Status | |
| 7/9/2015 12:33:12 PM | Bob, Billy | 111-11-1111 | AIR | 0 | Certified | |

You will be taken to the student's application detail. In the enrollment section, you can identify if the applicant is eligible for fall or spring funding, or both, by verifying which term(s) have checked radio buttons. If the fall enrollment button is blank, the student is not eligible for fall funding (see below). If the "Don't plan to enroll" radio button is checked for the fall term but the student subsequently enrolls during the fall term, that student can receive fall funding. In essence, the applicant did not plan to attend in the fall when he/she completed the application, but subsequently met the fall application deadline (so technically, the applicant could receive fall NGEAP funding too).

Identify terms or semesters (check appropriate radio-buttons) during the **2014-2015 academic year** for which assistance is requested. Funding will be approved for enrollment dates between August 2014 and May 2015. **Summer terms are not funded under this program.**

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Fall 2014 | <input type="radio"/> Am enrolled <input type="radio"/> Plan to enroll <input type="radio"/> Don't plan to enroll |
| Spring 2015 | <input type="radio"/> Am enrolled <input checked="" type="radio"/> Plan to enroll <input type="radio"/> Don't plan to enroll |

- Automatic email notification is built into the NGEAP System so that the designated financial aid administrator at the college or university is notified when a Soldiers or Airmen is added to their roster. Please ensure that you review your roster to make sure no Soldiers or Airmen were removed during the academic year. It is also wise to compare your roster to the list of Soldiers or Airmen that you have reported disbursements for in the State Scholarship and Grant System at the end of the year – just to make sure all have been reported. Traditionally, the automatic email notification is turned on in August, after the Iowa National Guard Education Office staff has approved the majority of applicants (to reduce the number of individual emails college administrators will receive through this process). Currently, only one administrator at each college can be set up to receive these automatic emails.

D. AWARD AMOUNTS AND LIMITS

National Guard officials have determined that they will be able to pay 100 percent of the average Regent **tuition rate** for the 2016-17 academic year. National Guard Educational Assistance Program awards may be used only to pay for educational assistance including tuition and fees; room and board; books, supplies, transportation and personal expenses; dependent care; and disability-related expenses. Individual award amounts are limited to:

- not less than 50 percent of the in-state tuition rate at Iowa universities; and
- not more than the resident tuition rate at Iowa Regent universities.

For academic year 2016-17, the average **tuition rate** for full-time students at Iowa Regent Universities is \$7,108**. Therefore, the maximum annual NGEAP award for the 2016-17 academic year is \$7,108** (\$3,554 per full-time semester or \$2,370/\$2,369/\$2,369 per full-time quarter).

***July 2016 – the Iowa Board of Regents approved a \$250 tuition increase for full-time undergraduate resident students for the 2016-17 academic year.*

Students enrolled at eligible colleges in programs with tuition charges that are lower than the Regent tuition rate will have their maximum award calculated based upon the actual tuition charges. If the Iowa National Guard has determined that they will pay a percentage of the Regent tuition rate (up to 100 percent), the maximum award for students attending programs with institutional charges lower than the Regent tuition rate will be the set percentage of their actual tuition charges.

Example: The Iowa National Guard has determined that they will pay 100 percent of the Regent tuition rate in the fall of 2016. Student A is being charged tuition of \$215 per credit hour and is enrolled in 6 credit hours. Since Student A's charged tuition rate is lower than the Regent rate (\$215 < \$296 for part-time students), Student A's maximum Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program award would be 100 percent of \$1,290 (\$215*6 credit hours), or \$1,290.

2016-17 ACADEMIC YEAR AWARDS:

For students enrolled in less than 12 credit hours, the following chart provides the maximum Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance award allowed per credit/quarter hour of enrollment based on a maximum award of 100 percent of the average regent **tuition rate**. The chart reflects the number of semester or quarter credit hours multiplied by the maximum part-time rate, which is 100 percent of the \$296 per credit hour **tuition rate** at Iowa Regent Universities.

| Number of Hours Enrolled | Maximum National Guard Award Semester School | Maximum National Guard Award Quarter School |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | \$296 ⁽¹⁾ | \$198/197/197 ⁽²⁾ |
| 2 | \$593/592 | \$395 |
| 3 | \$889/888 | \$593/592/592 |
| 4 | \$1,185/1,184 | \$790/790/789 |
| 5 | \$1,481 | \$988/987/987 |
| 6 | \$1,777 | \$1,185/1,185/1,184 |
| 7 | \$2,073 | \$1,382 |
| 8 | \$2,370/2,369 | \$1,580/1,580/1,579 |
| 9 | \$2,666/2,665 | \$1,777 |
| 10 | \$2,962/2,961 | \$1,975/1,974/1,974 |
| 11 | \$3,258 | \$2,172 |
| 12 | \$3,554 | \$2,370/2,369/2,369 |

⁽¹⁾ (1 hours ÷ 12 hours) x (Full NGEAP ÷ 2) = (1 ÷ 12) x (\$7,108 ÷ 2) = 0.083 x \$3,554 = \$296

⁽²⁾ (1 hours ÷ 12 hours) x (Full NGEAP ÷ 3) = (1 ÷ 12) x (\$7,108 ÷ 3) = 0.083 x \$2,369 = \$197

For students enrolled in programs with tuition charges lower than the Regent tuition rate (primarily community colleges), the Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program award has been set by the Adjutant General at 100 percent of the **tuition rate** at the college. College officials will calculate 100 percent of the per-hour **tuition rate** and multiply that figure by the number of hours a guard member is enrolled, with a maximum benefit not to exceed \$3,554 per semester or \$2,370 per quarter for students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours.

A qualified full-time resident student may receive an Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance award for no more than 120 semester hours, or the equivalent of undergraduate study.

CUMULATIVE NGEAP RECEIPT LIMITS AND GUIDANCE:

If a student is paid NGEAP funds during a term of enrollment, the associated credit hours will need to be reported back to the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid). For programs of study (or colleges/universities) that cap tuition charges for a semester at 12 credit hours (even if a student enrolls in 15 or 18 credit hours), all credit hours for that term should be reported as paid credit hours for NGEAP, not to exceed 120 semester credit hours, or the equivalent.

Example: Sam enrolls at Ruthven College in the fall semester. Ruthven College charges tuition by the credit hour, with a tuition charge cap at 12 credit hours per semester (students enrolling in more than 12 credit hours are not charged additional tuition). Sam enrolls in 15 credits and receives a full-time NGEAP award. Ruthven College reports 15 NGEAP paid credit hours to Iowa College Aid for that semester.

For students attending a community college, NGEAP is paid based on the actual tuition charged. In this scenario, the total number of credit hours paid by NGEAP for the semester should be reported to Iowa College Aid.

Example: Sam enrolls at Ayrshire Community College. Ayrshire Community College charges tuition by the credit hour, with no tuition charge cap. Sam enrolls in 15 credits and receives an NGEAP award corresponding to 15 credit hours. Ayrshire Community College reports 15 NGEAP paid credit hours to Iowa College Aid for that semester.

Regarding the treatment of credit hours from which an NGEAP recipient withdraws, receives an incomplete, etc., NGEAP paid credit hours should be regulated by the college/university refund policy. If a student is paid a partial NGEAP award (according to the college/university refund policy, as a result of withdrawing from a course or set of courses), those paid NGEAP credit hours would contribute to the 120 semester hour, or the equivalent, threshold, and should be reported to Iowa College Aid with that term's associated NGEAP disbursement. If the student is paid no NGEAP funds as a result of withdrawing from a course or set of courses (again, according to the institution's refund policy), no credit hours should be reported to Iowa College Aid for that course or set of courses for which no NGEAP was paid.

Students can only receive up to 120 semester hours, or the equivalent of NGEAP. Therefore if a student enrolls in more credit hours then they have remaining eligibility for they will only be paid for their remaining eligibility.

Example: Sam is enrolled in 12 semester credit hours but only has 4 hours of remaining NGEAP eligibility. The college/university should award 4 credit hours of NGEAP and report 4 credit hours to Iowa College Aid.

Members of the Iowa National Guard may use NGEAP in conjunction with federally funded programs such as the Army National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance program (ARNG-FTA). Members receiving federal benefits which pay tuition benefits directly to the institution are eligible to receive NGEAP. Caution must be used, however, in the event a Soldier or Airmen is receiving a Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill benefit. A Federal Tuition Assistance award is first applied to tuition charges and the Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill pays the

remaining tuition based on their tiered percentage. NGEAP should not impact this final total (guidance established 8/2011).

As previously stated, NGEAP awards may be used only to pay for educational assistance including tuition and fees; room and board; books, supplies, transportation and personal expenses; dependent care; and disability-related expenses.

E. AWARD NOTIFICATION

College and university officials may provide awards to Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance recipients only after Guard members' names appear on the NGEAP Roster provided by the Iowa National Guard.

College and university officials must provide award notices to all Iowa National Guard Education Assistance Grant recipients. Award notices must clearly indicate award amounts and the state programs from which students will benefit. All notices concerning state grants must include the following award notification statement:

“In the event that available state funds are insufficient to pay the full amount of each approved grant, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission has the authority to administratively reduce the award.”

F. RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is determined annually on the basis of a new application filed by the applicant. Eligible Iowa students may be considered for subsequent awards if the students continue to meet Iowa National Guard eligibility requirements and have not utilized cumulative grant eligibility.

G. IOWA COLLEGE AID RESPONSIBILITIES

Iowa College Aid staff provides the NGEAP Roster through Iowa College Aid's website. The roster updates each time the Adjutant General adds a recipient.

H. CERTIFICATION

College and university officials must verify the following information for each Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance recipient:

- Eligibility for NGEAP (verified by checking NGEAP Roster or performing a search);
- Satisfactory Academic Progress outlined in CFR § 668.34;
- Ensure student has not met the requirements of a baccalaureate degree;
- Ensure recipients are enrolled in certificate or undergraduate degree programs that are Title IV eligible;
- No defaulted Federal student loans;
- Ensure gift aid does not exceed the cost of attendance;
- Ensure cumulative NGEAP semester hours total is less than 120, or the equivalent
- Number of hours enrolled; and
- Award amount.

I. CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Any changes in awards must be provided Iowa College Aid staff electronically via the State Scholarship and Grant Reporting System (see Chapter 3 and Appendix A).

J. VERIFICATION/COMPLIANCE

College officials are responsible for coordinating all aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility (Section H. Certification) allowable award amounts. Clarification: Since NGEAP recipients are not required to complete a FAFSA, completion of federal verification (if selected) has no impact on a student's NGEAP eligibility.